SACWN Inc.
SACRAMENTO AREA COMMUNITY WOMEN'S NETWORK

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DECEMBER / JANUARY 2000
2000 2001

HOW CONDITIONAL IS OUR LOVE?

By Sue Charles

Recently I had the opportunity to attend an excellent presentation at The Open Book on transgender issues…you know the "T" part of our community represented in GLBT. The "T" that frequently is considered as "them". Not only was the discussion informative about transgender issues, more importantly for me it provoked a thought process which has proved to be somewhat enlightening.

One of the panelists' pain was still palpable as he shared his experiences of rejection and abuse from many members of the lesbian community where he resided at the time of his transition.... even though he had previously been a member of that community. While I will not be taking any position on transgender issues per se, I was deeply moved and would like to share with you some of the thoughts elicited by that panelist's experience.

It occurred to me that each of us has been someone's child, or someone's sibling, someone's friend, or someone's parent, and for the most part we could take the love in those relationships for granted …that is, until we came out. Regardless how our coming out resulted, I am willing to bet that each and every one of us agonized over how that information would be received, over how our relationships with those people might be forever changed or diminished, and over whether we might still be accepted or loved. In those instances where we encountered the pain and disappointment of rejection, we learned that some of the relationships we had previously counted upon were, in fact, very conditional.

Continued on page 3

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
5:30 TO 8:30
LAMBDA CENTER
1927 L STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Calling for volunteers! Calling for input! Calling for great ideas! Calling for you!

The second year of the SACWN revival is nearly over. It is time to make plans for next year. Basic questions like how will SACWN operate and who will head and serve on our three committees, Activities, Membership and Newsletter, will be decided soon.

We encourage you to come on Monday, December 4th and let us know who you are and how you want SACWN to be next year. And, don't hesitate to volunteer. Insist on your place at the table. We are over 350 members strong. Yes, 350 lesbians connected by a single database. You can help keep that connection intact. You can help extend that connection to others.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st,
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
at Faces
2000 K Street
Sacramento

SACWN'S HOLIDAY SOCIAL

LIVE MUSIC
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SACWN

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ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Diana L., 972-9465

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Sue, 944-7055

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Nancy, 452-6007

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Linda
Diana L.
Joyce
Debbie
Sandy
Betty
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THE SACWN MISSION

SACWN's mission is to provide lesbians with social activities in a safe and vibrant environment, a supportive network, and resources to link our diverse community.

SACWN NEWSLETTER POLICY

This newsletter is entirely dependent on volunteers. Please remember that we also have full time jobs.

In order to be included in the next newsletter, material must arrive in our mailbox or at our e-mail address by the 12th of January. We encourage submissions (e.g., Letters to the Editor, news items, photos, etc.). Please type submissions and include your name and phone number for verification. Submissions on diskette (Word97) or by e-mail are especially encouraged.

FREE ADS: This section is for selling things of a personal nature, advertising for a roommate or tracking down a lost love. These ads are FREE to SACWN members who are advertising things of a personal nature (no business advertising).

BUSINESS ADS: Camera-ready ads are $150 per business card size ad. Ads must be prepaid. Ads are on a 12-month/six issues per year basis. For more info, please contact Joyce at (916) 451-3018.

SIG BULLETIN: This section is for Special Interest Groups information and event dates.

NOTE: The SACWN newsletter expresses the opinions of the authors, and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steering Committee or the general membership. The editor reserves the right to exclude and/or edit the length of letters and articles.

CONFIDENTIALITY: SACWN takes the following precautions to insure the privacy of its members:

1. The mailing list is never sold nor lent to anyone – be they other women's groups or inquiring lesbians.
2. The newsletter is always sent 1st class, rather than at the cheaper bulk rate.
3. Each newsletter is addressed to a specific subscriber, not "resident" or "household."
4. Newsletters are not sent to individual men.

Women who want to participate in the operation of SACWN are encouraged to contact any of the committee coordinators listed (to the left).

THIS ISSUE'S JOKE:

OXYMORONS:

Assistant supervisor; State worker; Half dead; Legally drunk; Exact estimate; Completely unfinished; New tradition; Act naturally; Found missing; Art student; Original copy; Resident alien; Genuine imitation; Airline food; Dry wine; Good grief; Government organization; Uninvited guest

Continued from Page 1...

Most of us can still vividly recall those situations where someone's acceptance of us proved to be conditional and caused us anguish. What may be more elusive is identifying areas in which we are doing something similar. While I might wonder how anyone could intentionally and knowingly injure another, isn't it likely that I, too, sometimes cause grief unintentionally by virtue of the filters I place upon people?

As an "L" member of the GLBT community, how do I feel about bi-sexuality? Or a lesbian friend who decides to try a relationship with...omigod...a man? Will I still feel comfortable with her? How many of my friends are of a different ethnicity? Do I have friends of various ages? Am I close to any straight people who are not related to me – or any men? Is physical fitness a factor? Does someone's educational background influence whether I pursue a friendship? How about employment or financial status? Or class? What about weight? Or how someone dresses? Do I comfortably interact with someone who is differently abled? If in recovery, do I discard a friend who has chosen to drink or use again? What about smokers? Or a chronic medical condition? Do I welcome a new person at a gathering, even though she is unattractive to me? These are but a few of the many factors we may consciously or unconsciously be using to evaluate the acceptability of others, and which others may be using to judge our merit as well.

I can't prove this, but I would guess that most of us have friends who are very much like ourselves, and I am not making a critique, only a supposition. We all have criteria that determine with whom we will interact and with whom we will become close, and for the most part that is probably a good thing. I guess I am merely suggesting that before anyone is automatically discounted, it might be worthwhile taking a minute to think about what "conditions" we are using. Are they really necessary and would I find them hurtful if applied to me? What harm will come to me by virtue of my association with this person? Are there unexamined factors and fears limiting my ability to experience more diversity, or to have more texture in the fabric of my life? And while this might be okay as an issue of personal preference, can our community as a whole afford this type of "luxury"?

Though many of us may never have the experience of a close friend or partner making a gender or other monumental transition, it can be interesting to imagine how we might react -- and why. Then try to imagine you are the one making the transition and how your friends or partner might react. Trust me, if you haven't done this before it can lead to some interesting lines of thought and reevaluation about the nature of love, friendship, loyalty and commitment. While I wouldn't suggest that anyone necessarily change how they think or feel, this type of self-examination can be quite edifying, if not downright humbling.

Oh yeah, one more thing. It really helps to remember that everyone else has also been someone's child, someone's parent, someone's sibling, someone's friend, or someone's lover...and is a sentient being who experiences rejection the same way we do.

May your heart be touched this season and throughout the coming year by the spirit that brings us together in understanding and humanity.

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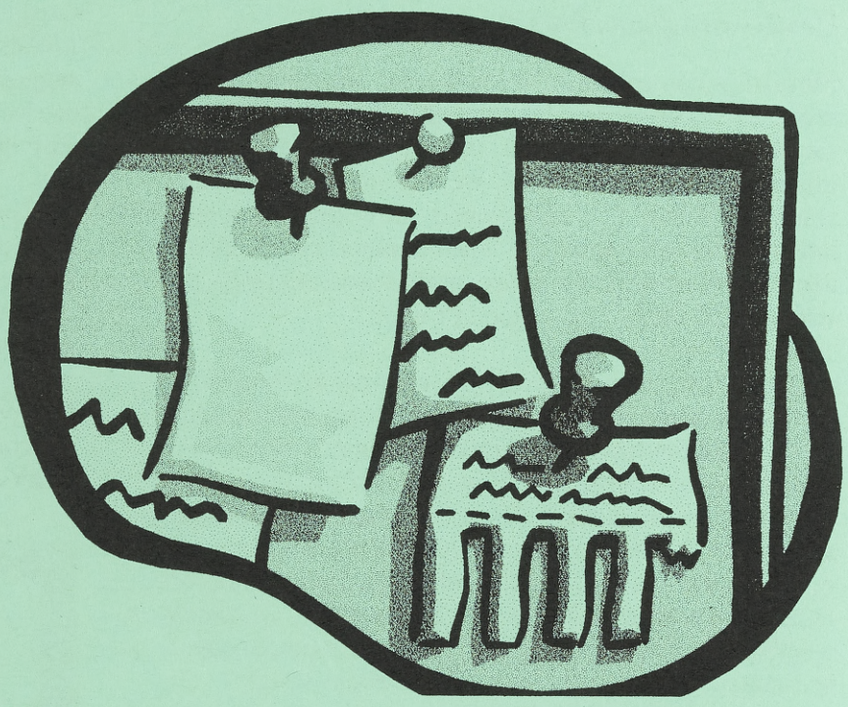
Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Bulletin

SACWN's SIGs are small, friendly groups of women who get together monthly (if not more often) to share activities of mutual interest. New members are always welcomed, so we encourage you to call the contact person listed to find out what activities are being planned.



RAINBOW CAMPERS

Rainbow Campers, founded by the late Jayne Rountree, is a loose knit group of lesbians who get together and camp at preselected campgrounds each month, April through October. We held an impromptu meeting while camping at Coloma and decided on the following trips for 2001:

April 13,14,15 Coloma. Mary & Linda 732-5269.

June 15,16,17 Casini Ranch. Joyce & Barb 929-3074.

July 20,21,22 Olema (Pt. Reyes area). Joyce & Barb 929-3074.

October 19,20,21 Coloma. Mary & Linda 732-5269.

These trips were decided "ad hoc". We have no trip ideas for May, August or September. Anyone willing to be a Wagon Master and has an idea for where to camp, please call Barbara at 929-3074. Destinations should be easily reached for those who work and would not be able to travel until late in the day or the next day.

How to Attend a Trip:

1. Call the Wagoneer for the trip(s) you want to attend. She will make the group reservation up to 60 days in advance of the scheduled camp date, so call her early.
2. The Wagoneer will tell you the site fee and cancellation date. She will request that you send her the fee for the number of nights that you plan to camp.
3. If you decide to cancel your reservation, call the Wagoneer before the cancellation date. Fee refunds cannot be made after the cancellation date.

TOP 10

Top 10 is a group of women over 50 and women who love women over 50. Each month we get together for a meal at a local restaurant or for special at-home potlucks. Please remember to RSVP for all events and call early as seating may be limited. Saturday, December 16, 2:00pm: Christmas Party and Potluck. Meat furnished by Dot & Betty. Bring a side dish, your favorite drink and a white elephant gift. Call Dot & Betty at 916-456-2577 by December 13 to RSVP. Sunday, January 21, 1:00pm: Games Day. Bring snacks. Call Mary at 916 395-4147 for directions.

FOOL HOUSE POKER GROUP

Feeling lucky? Then join us for a friendly game of poker the 2nd Friday of every month. Novice players welcome. I guarantee you'll have a good time. For game time and location, call Gretchen, 922-6287 or Mary, 723-5269.

SIGS, Continued

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The A&E SIG attended the following events in October and November:

At the Tower we saw the very clever British film "Saving Grace".

The Crocker Art Museum gave us two for the price of one. First we viewed the diverse contemporary art exhibit "Rough Edge". This was followed by the live performance of classical pianist Ruth Vinitsky Antine playing the music of Frederic Chopin. Ms. Antine's concert was well received by the approximately 200 people in attendance.

On Saturday, October 21st, we had dinner at The Distillery before going to see Lambda's production of "Oscar and Bosie" at the Geary Theatre. Dinner was good and the play was terrific.

Dan Futterman's performance in "Urbania" is outstanding. What first seemed like a film about a man going slowly insane eventually revealed it to be about a gay man's obsession to avenge the murder of his lover. A very intense film.

We tried without success to see "Shirley Valentine" at STC in November. Hopefully, we can get tickets for early December.

Ticket problems also exist for groups trying to see "6 Women with Brain Death". This show continues to be a sellout and well worth waiting for.
For information on upcoming events and to suggest an event for the group call Dee, 443-2377

Volunteer to be an usher and see the stage play as a thank you. Call Kathy 920-2162.

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club shares information, plantings, takes landscape tours, and much more. If you're interested please e-mail me at gpfgarden@cs.com or call Glenda, 454-0246.

NEWCOMERS

Are you new to the area or the lifestyle? Want to meet new people? Give me a call and I will do all I can to provide you with information to help you get tuned in to the network of activities available. Diana, 487-3124.

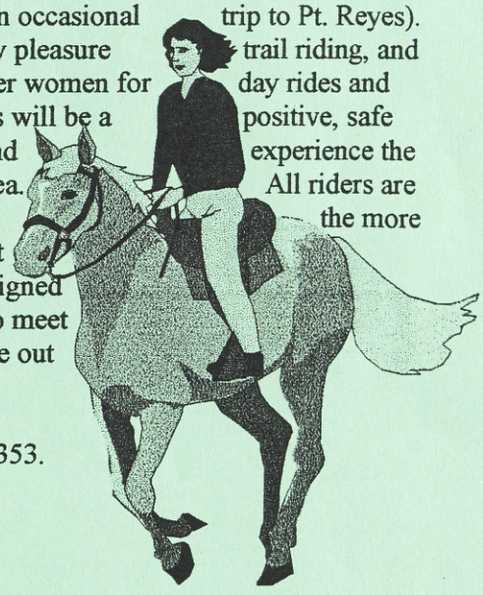
HALF FAST HIKING GROUP

This is a well-organized, friendly group of serious hikers who know how to have fun. We are in our fourth successful year of day-hiking with hikes scheduled once per month all year long. We walk at a comfortable pace and usually average about five miles round trip on hikes that are rated easy to moderate. Call for a calendar of events and an information sheet. All newcomers receive a warm welcome. Please join us for the time of your life! Kathy 979-9374.

EQUUS CLUB

This club is about horseback riding in and around the Sacramento area (foothills, mountains, and maybe an occasional trip to Pt. Reyes). It is intended for women who enjoy pleasure trail riding, and would like to get together with other women for day rides and occasional camping trips. The rides will be a positive, safe and an appealing way to explore and experience the beautiful equestrian trails in our area. All riders are welcome, from the novice rider to the more experienced rider. The rides are not intended to be competitive, but designed to be friendly relaxing and a way to meet other women of like interest. Come out and enjoy the trails!!

If interested call Kathleen at 726-5353.



The Take along Corner

Because we lesbians are particularly known for The Potluck, we thought you might enjoy sharing recipes that are easy to prepare and well received. Here is one of our favorites.

Mushroom Crustless Quiche

½ pound sliced mushrooms
1 bunch green onions, chopped
3 tablespoons margarine
3 eggs
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon Bisquick
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
1-1/2 cups milk
1-1/2 cups grated cheese

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a pie or quiche pan. Sauté mushrooms and onions in margarine. Beat eggs. Add Bisquick; mix until smooth. Add salt, pepper and garlic and blend 1 minute. Slowly add milk to egg mixture; mix thoroughly. Layer bottom of buttered pan with half of the mushrooms and onions. Add cheese then top with remaining mushrooms and onions. Pour egg mixture over top. Bake 30 to 35 minutes.

Please send us any of your favorite recipes and we will try to use them in future newsletters.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING:

When I slow down long enough to smell the roses, I usually see the beauty and all else that is ours to share.

We overlook so many joys, so many hidden treasures, when we hurry from place to place, person to person, experience to experience, with little attention anywhere. All that matters passes before us now, at this moment, and assuredly we will not pass this way again.

It has been said the greatest gift we can give one another is rapt attention; additionally, living life fully attentive to the breezes, the colors, the sorrows and the thrills as well, is the most prayerful response any of us can make in this life. Nothing more is asked of us – nothing less is expected.

We have just this one life to live, and each day is a blessing. Even the trials we shall understand as blessings in the months and years ahead, as we can see now how the painful moments of the past played their part. Our attitude toward the lessons that life offers make all the difference in the world.

VERMONT CIVIL UNIONS

By Diana Kerwin

Vermont Governor Howard Dean will take office for the fifth time despite his support of the Civil Union Law. Vermont's Civil Union Law, which passed last April, caused some concern for Vermont's Democratic Governor because of the outcry from many of Vermont's citizens. The outcries of the anti-union Vermonters became the message of Dean's Republican opponent, Ruth Dwyer, and the creation of the slogan "Take Back Vermont".

There have been more than eight hundred civil unions since July, of which seventy percent have been the unions of out of state couples. This led many Vermonters to feel that their state is being used to push the "gay agenda".

Although I'm sure that the homosexuals who journeyed to Vermont to be united were more interested in the significance of their relationships being recognized and entitling them to the same legal benefits as heterosexuals, I understand the concerns of the citizens. So many people from out of state making their way to Vermont all at once can seem like an invasion. On the other hand though, this is the only state thus far where same sex couples are entitled to the same rights as their heterosexual counterparts, and hopefully the statement made by those willing to make that journey will lead to enlightenment and fairness by other states. If this is looked at as pushing the "gay agenda" instead of fairness and equality then some are still too homophobic.

Since there is no "gay agenda", what is really being pushed is for all to recognize that there is more to the definition of a marriage or union than the gender of the participants and those aspects should be considered of greater value. Sex is the only issue with many people today when considering this type of law. They are accepting of almost everything about us other than the issue of sex.

Luckily, the Supreme Court was able to see past the sex and mandated that gays are entitled to the same legal benefits as heterosexuals. This being the case, it would have been difficult to repeal the decision even if Dean was defeated and even with the loss of some democratic seats in the legislature.

Eileen Heinrich L.C.S.W.
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SACWN'S 2ND ANNUAL VALENTINES DANCE

FEBRUARY 10TH @ PORTUGUESE HALL

6676 Pocket Road

8:00 pm to 1:00 am

(I-5 to Florin Rd. West exit, L-onto Riverside, R- ontoPark Riveria Way, R- onto Pocket Road.)

Music by Roni & the Flight

Full No Host Bar

Light Hors D' Oeuvres

$20.00 ea. by mail before 2-4-2001

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Name:_____ Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Tickets: _____ Phone #:_____

Other Sacramento Area Events

The following non-SACWN groups are hosting special events during December and January that may be of interest to our membership. Our calendar page also lists these events. To have your event listed, send your submission to sacwn@cs.com. Events are listed free on a space available basis.

CAPITAL CITY SQUARES HAPPY 2001 WORKSHOP & DANCE

Saturday, January 20
2:30 - 5:00 Workshop ($5)
7:30 - 10:00 Dance ($7)
Jefferson Elementary School
Sacramento

Capital City Squares is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide educational, recreational, and social opportunities within the framework of Modern Western Square Dancing for the gay and lesbian community.
For more information:
http://www.iagsdc.org/capitalcitysquares/

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS

GLS is a friendly, relaxed group of lesbians and gay men who enjoy outdoor adventures and camaraderie. Established in May 1996, they offer a variety of outdoor activities. The following are some of their activities for December and January. Call Ray at 916-421-6209 for a full event listing. Please remember not to call hike leaders after 9pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
MT. DIABLO DAY HIKE
Come enjoy the view of the East Bay area and possibly even the Sierras from the top of Mt. Diablo. Call Launa for details, 415-551-0945.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
BIRDING AT COLUSA AND SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
No previous experience required. This will be an all day affair with an optional early dinner in scenic Williams. Call 530-668-0691 for more details, meeting time and location.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
DOWNHILL SKI TRIP AT SUGARBOWL
Enjoy Intermediate to Advanced skiing at one of Tahoe's best resorts. Meet at Eureka Road Park & Ride lot off I-80 in Roseville at 7AM. Call Launa for details, 415-551-0945.

WEDNESDAY EVENING READING GROUP

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
The Open Book, Ltd.
910 21st St., Sacramento.

Started as a women's reading club, the Wednesday Night Reading Group has expanded into a lively discussion group of all sexes encompassing a wide range of literary and social topics. Gail Lang, an Open Book staff member and gay/lesbian literary history buff, facilitates this large group. The popularity of this group is the result of research and investigated work by its members and facilitator on a wide range of topics and reading interests. Becoming known as an evening to "meet people", the Wednesday Night Reading Group promotes interaction of its diversified members. Recent discussion topics: Spirituality, Lesbians in Sports, Sex. For more information, call The Open Book at 916-498-1004

AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT DISPLAYS

Sunday Dec 3 thru Saturday Dec 16
Sacramento Ballet Rehearsal Studios
17th & J Streets, Sacramento
Cost: Free

Over 250 panels will be displayed, including many from Sacramento. Community volunteers are needed to monitor safety of panels. Display hours will be dependent on volunteer support. Additional smaller displays will be at Yuba City and Woodland Malls, Solano Community College, and other venues. As some of these displays are still in the planning stage, be sure to call Quilt chapter voicemail 916-484-5646 for confirmation, or to volunteer to assist with monitoring or setup.

THE LAMBDA PLAYERS GAY PLAYS FESTIVAL

January 18, 19 & 20 @8:00 p.m.
Geery Theater
2301 L Street, Sacramento
Cost: $10 per event

For one weekend only, The Lambda Players will present a series of staged reader's theater productions of historical gay plays that explore the richness of the lesbian & gay community.
Featured are: "A Lady and A Woman" by Shirlene Holmes (Thursday, Jan 18th); "The Drag" by Mae West (Friday, Jan 19th); and "A Late Snow" by Jane Chambers (Saturday, Jan 20th).
Contact Information: 916- 366-3904

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday 1	Monday 4	All Days 3 thru 16	Wednesdays 6,13,20,27	Friday 8
SACWN **HOLIDAY SOCIAL**	SACWN **General Meeting** 5:30 pm at the Lambda Center	AIDS Memorial Quilt Display at Sacramento Ballet Rehearsal Studios	Open Book, Ltd Reading Group	Fool House Poker
Saturday 9	**Saturday 16**			
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Mt Diablo Day Hike	Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Birding, Colusa & Sacramento Wildlife Refuges Top 10 Christmas Party & Potluck			

JANUARY

Saturday 6	Friday 18	Saturday 19	Sunday 20	Sunday 21
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Downhill Ski Trip at Sugarbowl	Lambda Players Gay Plays Festival	Lambda Players Gay Plays Festival	Lambda Players Gay Plays Festival	Top 10 Games Day

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Rates are per household, per year and will be prorated based on the month in which you subscribe. The subscription year is February through January.

Waiver: I am aware that certain risks or injuries could occur arising from my participation in SACWN, Inc. events and/or special interest groups. In consideration of the right to participate in such events, some of which may involve strenuous activity (i.e., hiking, golfing, skiing, cycling, etc.), I hereby assume all risks and will hold SACWN, Inc. and its members harmless from all liability which may arise in connection with these activities.

Signature_____ Date:_____

Signature Date:

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Volunteer Form

Can you volunteer? We need help in the following areas:

NEWSLETTER

- ❑ Writers
- ❑ Proofreaders & editors
- ❑ Layout & Graphics

ACTIVITIES

- ❑ Event Organizers
- ❑ Assistants
- ❑ Planners
- ❑ Decorations
- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Dates

Comments, Suggestions, Viewpoint

_____

_____

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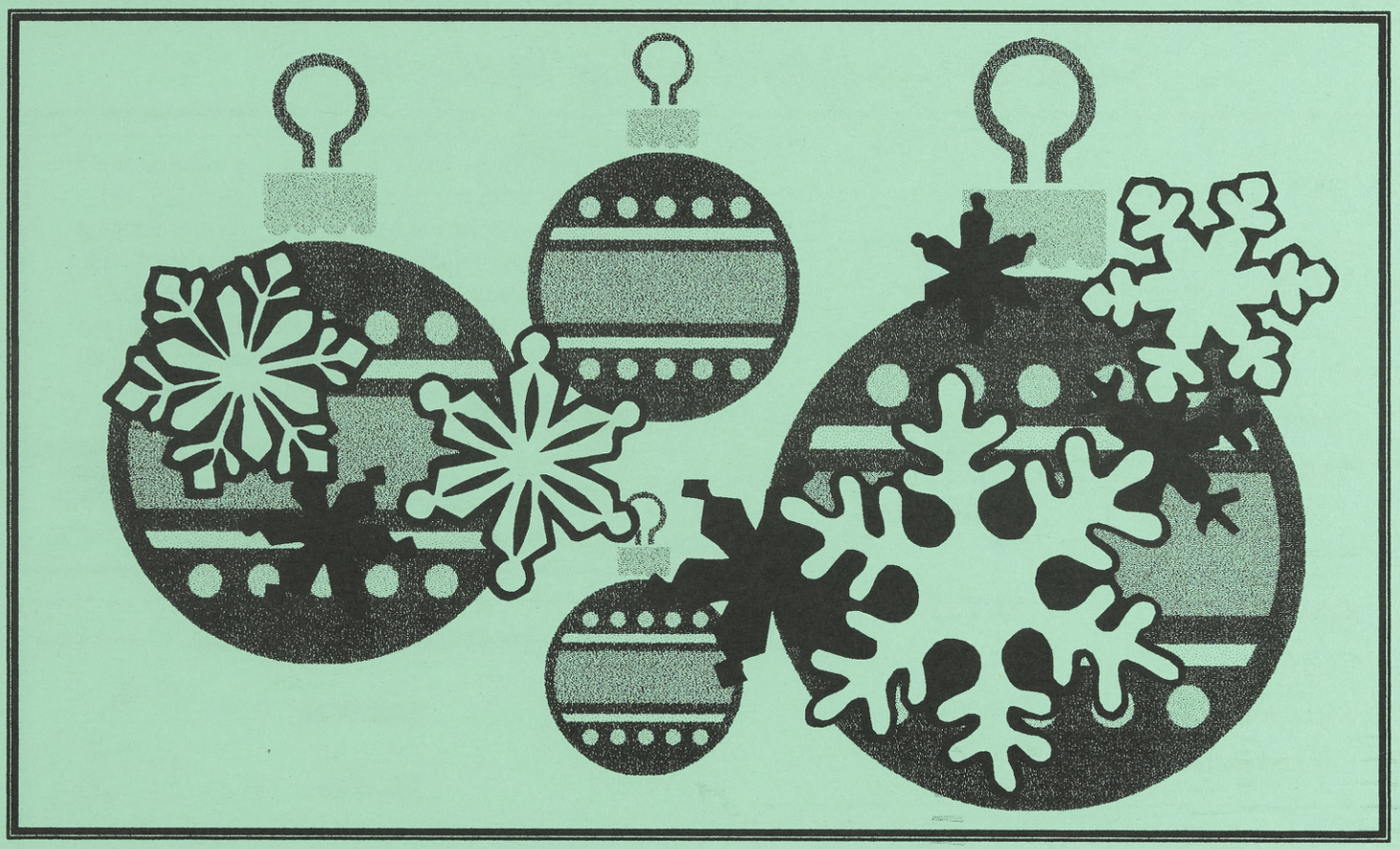
Want to contact us but don't want to write? SACWN has voice mail and e-mail! Call us at (916)451-8034. Leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible. Or you can send us e-mail at: SACWN@cs.com.



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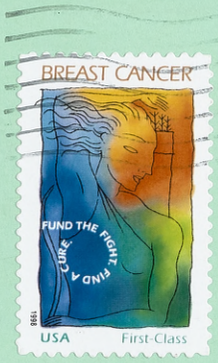

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